

TO: CRNZ CLUBS & MEMBERSHIP

RE: AGE GROUPS

DATE: 15 August 2012



You will recall that last year we took the step of changing our age groups and DOB cut-off to align with Surf Lifesaving in an attempt to better serve our paddlers domestically, giving them the ability to compete in one age group all season and which also allowed for steady team boat crews throughout the season. This worked really well domestically. However, it created some challenges for selectors internationally, and more importantly affects our ability to run international regattas in New Zealand.

Now that we are running the ICF Oceania Canoe Sprint Championship event every second year, as well as looking at hosting Oceania Ocean Ski and Marathon events, it is essential for us to align with the ICF age groups and age criteria and we are therefore having to alter our age groups as below. This also ensures that athletes compete in the correct age groups to make them eligible for selection internationally.

Unfortunately this means that some kids may race in one age group at Blue Lakes 1 and 2, and another at Nationals. Coaches may therefore choose to race them up at the Blue Lake regattas in preparation for Nationals. We changed initially for all the right reasons, but aligning with the ICF rules is also for different 'right reasons'.

Hopefully the below clarifies for you how things will now work. The age groups will be:

- Tyros (age 13 and under)
- U14 (age 14 and under)
- U16 (age 16 and under)
- U18 (age 18 and under)
- U23 (age 23 and under)
- Open
- Masters (age 35+)

Age is taken as at 31 December of that year, i.e. the athlete competes during the year as the age they turn **in that year**. i.e. If Doris turns 16 any time in 2013, she is still able to compete in U16 as a 16 year old during all of 2013.

Note: According to ICF Rule 3.6 (page 7) The first year a competitor can compete in a **junior category** (U16 - U23) is the year that his/her 15th birthday falls in and the last year he/she can compete, as a junior is the year that his/her 18th birthday falls in. Last year he/she can compete in Under 23 category is the year that his/her 23rd birthday falls in.

If any of this requires clarification please don't hesitate to contact Karen on 04 902 1206 or email Karen.simpson@canoeracing.org.nz.

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